

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 12, 2008

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**Drs. Rita Liu and Betty Tai win the CPDD J. Michael Morrison Award**

Rita Liu, Ph.D., and Betty Tai, Ph.D., will receive the J. Michael Morrison Award presented by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), to recognize their outstanding contributions in the area of scientific administration related to drugs of abuse. The award will be presented on Sunday morning, June 15, at the Plenary Session of the College's seventieth annual meeting, to be held at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dr. Liu, Associate Director for Grants Activities, Office of Extramural Affairs, National Institute on Drug Abuse, is the NIDA Referral Officer and the Referral Liaison to the NIH Center for Scientific Review. She serves as Scientific Review Officer for the NIDA Centers Review Committee and also for applications responding to some RFAs. Prior to joining NIDA in 1988, she held faculty positions at Georgetown University and at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Dr. Liu was trained as a dentist at the National Taiwan University Medical College, she received a M.S. in Oral Pathology and Anatomy from Emory University, and she obtained her Ph.D in Neuroanatomy from Georgetown University. She has received numerous honors from NIDA and NIH for meritorious service.

Dr. Tai, Director, Center for the Clinical Trials Network, National Institute on Drug Abuse, has served as the Director of NIDA's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Program since her appointment in 1999. The CTN Program is intended to bridge the gap between research and practice and raise the drug abuse treatment standard across the nation using science as the vehicle. Dr. Tai received her BS from National Taiwan University, MS from the University of Massachusetts and Ph.D. from the George Washington University. She was an NIH intramural research fellow before she joined FDA as a clinical pharmacology reviewer. In 1989, she returned NIDA as an extramural program administrator directing clinical research programs for the development of anti-drug abuse medications. Dr. Tai has received several awards including Research Service Awards from the Board of Scientific Affairs of the American Psychological Association and the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Chinese National Institute on Drug Dependence – National Peking University.

The J. Michael Morrison Award is presented bi-annually by CPDD as a memorial to this well-liked and respected administrator at NIDA. CPDD is the largest and oldest organization for the scientific study of drug dependence and addiction.

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